

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE A-12

NEW YORK TIMES  
5 September 1984

## 2 Nicaragua Dead Are Called Unpaid Volunteers

By PHILIP TAUBMAN  
Special to The New York Times

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., Sept. 4 — Nicaraguan rebel leaders said today that two Americans killed when their helicopter was shot down in Nicaragua on Saturday were Vietnam veterans who were members of a veterans' group formed to help the Nicaraguan rebels.

The rebel leaders, based in Miami and New Orleans, said the two men and four other Americans who traveled with them to Honduras last week volunteered their help and received no pay. Previously it had been reported that the group consisted of seven men.

The rebel leaders, from the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, the largest of the insurgent groups, said that one of the men killed was a Huntsville police detective, Dana H. Parker Jr., who they said had taken a leave of absence to assist the rebels.

The other man, they said, was James Powell, of Memphis. Both men were said to have been helicopter pilots in Vietnam.

### Group Formed by Veterans

The two men, according to the rebel officials, were members of a group called Civilian Military Assistance that was formed last year by American military veterans to help the rebels.

The group, the insurgent officials said, has chapters in Huntsville, Memphis, and Birmingham and has sent between 15 and 20 Americans to Honduras during the last year to advise the rebels.

The Americans have helped train rebel airplane and helicopter pilots, the insurgent leaders said, but have not participated in military activities in Nicaragua.

They said that the two men were killed on Saturday when their helicopter flew over Nicaragua to inspect the damage inflicted by a rebel ground attack on a military installation, but that they had not taken part in fighting.

The Americans have also provided medical supplies, clothing and other equipment to help the rebels, the insurgent leaders said.

### Some Said to Be Reservists

The Americans, according to the rebel leaders, have no connection with the Central Intelligence Agency, which has supported the insurgents since 1981, but some are in the United States Army Reserve.

The main rebel group, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, scheduled a news conference to identify the men and provide details about their involvement in the Nicaraguan conflict.

Rebel officials said that Mario Calero Portocarrero, a rebel leader in New Orleans, had helped arrange for the Americans to travel to Honduras last week.

The rebel leaders said the men had no connection, direct or indirect, with the United States Government while they were assisting the insurgents. The Reagan Administration has also said that the men, described by White House and intelligence officials as mercenaries, were not associated with the Government.

Nicaragua, which said that the helicopter was shot down after it and four small planes had attacked a military training school in Santa Clara, near the Honduran border, has charged that the men worked for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Questions remained, however, about how the six Americans became involved with the rebels and how the C.I.A., which has described their activities in some detail, knew about their

presence in Honduras last week.

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the New York Democrat who is vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, has said that the panel will look into the involvement of the Americans and any possible links to the C.I.A.

Senator Moynihan said today, "An official of the C.I.A. got back to me today to confirm the original information that the American citizens involved with the 'contra' activity in Honduras and Nicaragua are in no way associated with the intelligence community, nor have they been. It appears to me it is now a matter for the State Department to investigate."

'Contra' is a term used to describe those seeking to overthrow Nicaragua's leftist Government.

STAT